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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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for action
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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

REF 95-138

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Cuba

It is recommended that instructions be sent to
Ambassador Stevenson along the following lines:

Contact made by Ambassador Lechuga with Atwood
has received careful consideration here. The following
conclusions have been reached.

1. Great caution must be exercised in discussing
matters of this kind with Castro and it would be undesirable
for anyone known to be directly connected with the United
States Government to have such conversations directly with
him. On the other hand, knowledge of any contact being made
must be restricted as narrowly as possible.
2. It may be useful both in our dealings with Castro
and the USSR to secure as full a statement as possible of
what Castro has in mind, although it must be done for the
present without committing ourselves as to what we might be
willing to do.
3. There is no great hurry as we assume that funda-
mental factors which led Castro to wish to talk will continue.


On basis these conclusions we suggest that Atwood see
Lechuga in a week or so and indicate quite informally that,
as Lechuga must be aware, two points which have much
concerned the United States Government and people are the
ties of the Cuban regime with the Soviet bloc and the
activities of the Cuban regime in promoting violence and

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-2-

subversion of friendly governments in this hemisphere. He would find it difficult to secure serious consideration of Castro's proposal for discussions about United States-Cuban relations without having some idea about what Castro thinks he could do on these two issues which, while not the whole of the problem, certainly are key ones. If Dr. Lechuga should raise again the question of conversations with Vallejo, Atwood should say that, if Vallejo should come to New York for a task connected with the work of the Cuban UN Delegation, he thought it would be possible to arrange for an informal conversation between himself and Vallejo but he just did not think any further contact was possible until he had a clear idea of Castro's position on the two points mentioned.


Edwin M. Martin
Assistant Secretary

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